

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A post-treatment ~~product and~~ process for making a water-resistant polymeric coating ***composition*** or a strongly-swellable polymeric gel which comprises providing a stable, aqueous two-phase polymeric composition by the steps of forming a reaction mixture in a reaction vessel of a water-soluble vinyl monomer, optionally with one or more water-soluble comonomers, a predetermined amount of a first crosslinking agent, and water, heating the mixture, then periodically adding a predetermined amount of an initiator, and polymerizing at about 30-130°C, optionally removing said resultant two-phase composition from the reaction vessel, ***then*** adding a predetermined amount of ***an*** additional crosslinker or proteinaceous compound thereto, optionally coating the mixture onto a support, and optionally heating to further polymerize the mixture.

Claim 2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 in which said mixture is coated onto a polyester film.

Claim 3. (Original) A process according to claim 1 which is further polymerized at about 100°C.

Claim 4. (Original) A process according to claim 1 in which at least 0.02% by weight of additional crosslinker is added to the two-phase composition.

Claim 5. (Original) A process according to claim 1 in which an additional proteinaceous compound is added to the two-phase composition.

Claim 6. (Original) A process according to claim 1 further including the step of diluting with water and/or alcohol during or after the initial polymerization.

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Claim 7. (Original) A process according to claim 1 in which said first crosslinking agent is present in an amount of 0.02-0.5 wt.% based on monomers.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 7 wherein said first crosslinker is ~~PETE~~ pentaerithritol triallyl ether or ~~PETA~~ pentaerithritol tetraacrylate.

Claim 9. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein said initiator is an azo initiator.

Claim 10. (Cancelled with this Amendment)

Claim 11. (Cancelled with this Amendment)

Claim 12. (Cancelled with this Amendment)